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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : *[Signature]*

Robert WENZ et al. : Group Art Unit: TO BE ASSIGNED

Serial No.: 09/853,042 : Examiner: TO BE ASSIGNED

Filed: May 11, 2001 : *[Signature]*

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P A T E N T & T R A D E M A R K O F F I C E
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

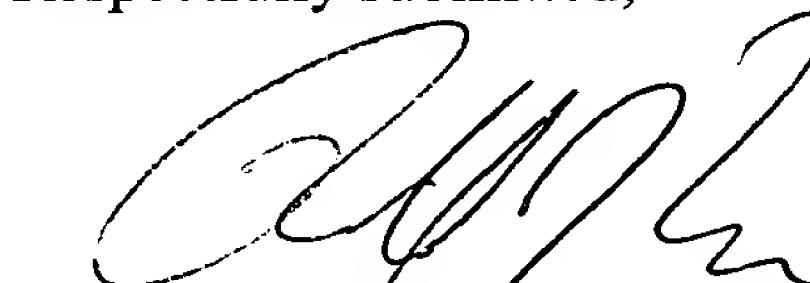
Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of WO 99/49906. This document is also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. WO '906 is discussed in applicants' specification. See, for example, page 4, lines 32-38, and page 5, lines 24-28.

In addition, throughout applicants' specification, reference is made to German patent application DE 19813614.5. See, e.g., page 1, lines 1-2, 22 and 31. DE '614 is listed as the priority document for WO '906. DE '614 is also cited as the priority document for co-pending U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/646,180.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee is required. See 37 C.F.R. §1.97.

Respectfully submitted,


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